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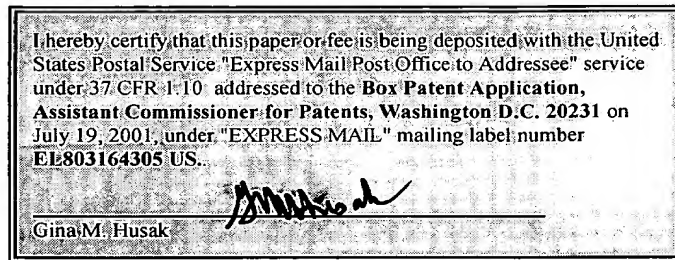
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Akira WAKABAYASHI

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: ONLINE TRADING SYSTEM

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicant wishes to amend the subject application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 5-9 as follows:

5. (Amended) An online trading system according to claim 3 further comprising:
unit price storing means for storing a unit price of bidding up, wherein, if the article is to be sold to a bid submission received by said prior bid receiving means, said successful bid determining means determines a successful bid price by adding the unit price to the highest price of the bid submission received by said bid submission receiving means.

6. (Amended) An online trading system according to claim 3 further comprising:
unit price storing means for storing a unit price of bidding up; and
starting-price-storing means for storing a starting price of the auction, wherein, if there is no bid submission at the auction but a bid submission is received via the communicating

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